



## Middletown Police Department

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### **Press Release: Look out for Scams, several different types circulating**

Recently the Middletown Police Department has received a few different types of reports on scams. The suspects are always asking for money or looking to obtain your personal information.

One resident received a call from someone looking to gain remote access into their computer. The caller states there is a problem with the computer and they are willing to fix the issue. If you do not initiate the call do not allow access to your computer and do not give out any personal information.

The second type of scam that we received was someone calling stating that a family member was kidnapped. We've also seen calls where a family member is in jail or involved in a serious accident. These types of calls take you off guard and put you into panic mode, making it difficult to think clearly and make good decisions. The caller will then say they need money wired immediately.

Be aware of these types of calls, do not give them any information. Ask them for specifics, like what hospital, call back number. But call information or use the internet to verify the number. Have the caller give you the personal information about the person they are talking about. Ask them what the person's full name is that they are calling about, date of birth etc. Never give them any of this information. Usually the will say something generic like your son, or your granddaughter.

If possible set up a code word with your family members in advance, ask for the code word. If they don't know it, end the call. Then call another family member or the family member that they spoke of to verify the story. These calls will be very high pressure they may yell, say they can't wait or that it is a matter of life and death.

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excellence, professionalism and integrity"*

Tell the senior citizens in your family to look out for these types of scams. Remind them not to give out personal information or information about their family. When in doubt call the police and ask about the call you received.

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